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M. WATTS

PATENT 9/5/02

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February 11, 2002  
DateStephanie Jansen  
Stephanie Jansen

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Jason B. Elledge  
Serial No. : 09/616,794  
Filed : July 14, 2000  
Title : APPARATUS FOR IN-SITU OPTICAL ENDPOINTING ON WEB-FORMAT  
PLANARIZING MACHINES IN MECHANICAL OR CHEMICAL-MECHANICAL  
PLANARIZATION OF MICROELECTRONIC-DEVICE SUBSTRATE ASSEMBLIES  
AND METHODS FOR MAKING AND USING SAME

Attorney Docket No.: 500188.02  
Group Art Unit : 3723  
Examiner : Willie Berry, Jr.

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

Applicant acknowledges receipt of the Office Action dated December 31, 2001.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 41, 42, 44, and 45, amend claims 40 and 43, and add new claims 46-79 as follows:

40. (Amended) A method of endpointing mechanical or chemical-mechanical planarization processing of microelectronic-device substrate assemblies, comprising:

initially passing a light beam from an illumination site in a table through a first optically transmissive view site located at first area within an elongated slot in a polishing pad to at least periodically impinge a first substrate assembly with the light beam and optically sense a surface condition of the first substrate assembly;